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Solomon's Temple in the Light of Other Oriental Temples. By EMANUEL SCHMIDT, PH.D. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1902. Pp. 71.

The author of this work is a brother of Professor Nathaniel Schmidt, of Cornell University, who is well known to biblical scholars. The little treatise which composes this book was presented to the University of Chicago as a thesis for the degree of doctor of philosophy, and it is a not unworthy thesis for the brother of such a scholar. The work consists of a brief introduction, a chapter on "The Characteristic Features of Oriental Temples," another on "Preparations for Solomon's Temple," a third on "The Plan of the Building," a fourth on "Furniture and Decorations of the Temple," and concludes with one on "The Growth of the Oriental Temple."

Dr. Schmidt has thus brought together and co-ordinated a mass of useful details. One finds here the principal features of Babylonian, Egyptian, Phœnician, and Cyprian temples, and is able to see wherein the temple of Solomon resembles these, and wherein it followed an original plan. To bring this material together is a real service to many readers of the Bible.

The work is attractively presented. Sometimes, as upon p. 40, the type is broken, but such imperfections are few. We welcome Dr. Schmidt to the goodly fellowship of biblical scholars.

GEORGE A. BARTON.

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE,
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Vocal and Literary Interpretation of the Bible. By PROFESSOR S. S. CURRY, PH.D., Newton Theological Institution, Newton, Mass. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1903. Pp. xx+384. \$1.50, *net*.

More than any man of recent years, Dr. Curry has represented sane and scientific methods in the training of the speaking voice. He has never been a teacher of young men and women who wished to declaim funny pieces or who wished to be coached as to tears and gestures, but in Harvard, Yale, Boston University, Newton Theological Institution, and in his own School of Expression in Boston, he has educated preachers, public readers, and, above all, teachers. There are few American teachers of what used to be called "elocution," and now is better known as "expression" or simply "public speaking," who have not been in his classes and who will not testify to the soundness of his methods and to his almost fanatical devotion to ideals in his art.

Much of his work has been with clergymen, hundreds of whom will look back with mingled feelings, it must be admitted, but certainly with gratitude, to his uncompromising criticism of their efforts to read the Scripture. It will be they, above all others, who will welcome this latest book of his, in which, in a broad way, he applies his methods to the public reading of the Bible.

The book is, in fact, an epitome of the philosophy and the art to which Dr. Curry has devoted his life. It falls into four main parts: (1) "The Problem of the Bible in Worship;" (2) "The Message," in which he speaks of the different psychological attitudes with which one may approach literature; (3) "The Technique," which is a summary of practical instruction as to public speech illustrated by passages from the Scripture; (4) "Preparation to the Service," in which he deals more directly with the actual use of the Scripture in public worship. Even a cursory reading will show that Professor Curry has done something very different from laying down mechanical rules as to what words should be emphasized or what inflections should be used. Here, as in all his works, he demands that expression shall depend upon impression, and that the first step toward the correct public speech or reading is an attitude of mind which shall give color and effect to a correct interpretation of the passage read.

The book also has a high value for an interpreter as distinct from the public reader. The ordinary exegetical process seldom involves the reading of a passage aloud. It should be a rule of all teachers that after a process of interpretation is completed, a student should not only prepare a paraphrase, but should be taught to read the passage so as to give the actual meaning vocally. If anyone doubts the possibility of such a process, he will be disabused by a careful study of this book.

A word should also be said in appreciation of the literary form in which this volume is cast. The reviewer happens to know something of the labor which Professor Curry has devoted to every line and every word. The book does credit to the author's care. Dealing with a technical subject, its treatment is anything but technical, and Professor Curry has performed the almost impossible task of giving literary value to a subject which is too often treated with unintelligible vocabularies or with a smartness which destroys respect, even though it may command attention. We earnestly recommend this volume to every preacher. A careful study and practice of the principles it contains will give new charm and efficiency to the public reading of the Bible.

S. M.